

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 11, 14, and 21 were rejected, claims 3-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 were allowed, and claim 2 was objected to, in the Office action mailed June 25, 2007. Claims 2, 14, and 21 are cancelled and claim 1 is amended by this response. Claims 1, 3, 12 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 11, 4-10, 13, and 16-20 depend from independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 15, respectively.

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1, 3-13, and 15-20, in light of the following remarks.

Amendments to Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2 and to correct noted minor typographical errors, and have cancelled claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Objections to Claims

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but was deemed allowable if re-written in independent form to include all limitations of its base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (there are no intervening claims). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2, and respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 11, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rao (US 2004/0123282). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2, as set forth above. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable as

amended. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is a dependent claim depending from claim 1. Because claim 11 depends from claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also allowable, for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicants have cancelled claims 14 and 21, without prejudice, and hereby expressly reserve the right to re-file claims 14 and 21 in a continuing application. Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claim 14 and 21 has rendered the rejection of claims 14 and 21 moot, and respectfully request that the rejections of claims 14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

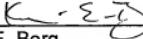
In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding claims 1-21 and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for recognition of the allowable subject matter of claims 3-10, 12, 13, and 15-20. The Applicants believe that pending claims 1, 3-13, and 15-20 are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission, the Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (312) 775-8000.

A Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 4, 2007
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